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REFERENCE: YT 819J

ATTACHMENT TO -M-5953

7 March 1969

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MULTIPLE RIVER CROSSINGS
ROUTE 8, LAOS
1818N 10504E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

ROUTE 8 IS ONE OF THREE ACCESS ROADS INTO THE LAOTIAN PANHANDLE FROM NORTH VIETNAM. WITH THE INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF MOVING MEN AND SUPPLIES THROUGH LAOS, ROUTE 8 IS REGAINING ITS FORMER IMPORTANCE.

2. LOCATION:

ROUTE 8 EXTENDS FROM VINH, NORTH VIETNAM THROUGH KEO NUA PASS (NAPE) INTO LAOS. IT CONTINUES WEST THROUGH NAPE TO LAK SAO THEN SOUTH TO ROUTE 12 NEAR BAN NHOMMARATH KEO.

3. BACKGROUND:

ROUTE 8 HAS BEEN OPEN DURING THE CURRENT DRY SEASON OVER ITS ENTIRE 63 NM LENGTH FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE 1963-1964 DRY SEASON. ONLY SHORT SEGMENTS IN LAOS EAST OF LAK SAO WERE OPEN TO LIGHT TRAFFIC DURING THE INTERVENING YEARS.

4. MISSION READOUT:

MISSION YT819J OF 13 FEBRUARY 1969 REVEALS THREE ROUTE 8 CROSSING POINTS OVER THE NAM PHAO RIVER AT NAPE 1818N 10504E. TWO OF THESE RIVER CROSSINGS AT UTM WFO79227 AND WFO82234 ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE, THE THIRD AT WFO80228 IS UNSERVICEABLE DUE TO AIR STRIKES. A BULLDOZER IS OBSERVED WORKING ON THE EAST

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APPROACH OF THE RIVER CROSSING AT THE OLD NAPE BRIDGE SITE AT WF081234. A NEW BRIDGE HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED OVER THE NAM HEU STREAM AT WF086232 REPLACING THE ABANDONED STREAM CROSSING AT WF085232.

5. REMARKS:

RECENT COLLATERAL SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THE MOVEMENT OF TRUCKS AND TROOPS OVER ROUTE 8 NEAR THE LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM BORDER. IN AN EFFORT TO CURTAIL THIS MOVEMENT, THE LAO ARMED FORCES HAVE RESORTED TO BOMBING THE ROAD NORTH OF BAN NAPE. ONE SOURCE REPORTED THAT TWO DAYS AFTER ONE SUCH BOMBING MISSION, TRAFFIC WAS AGAIN MOVING OVER THE ROUTE.

25X1

MAP REFERENCE: AMS SERIES L7015 SHEET 6045 IV

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